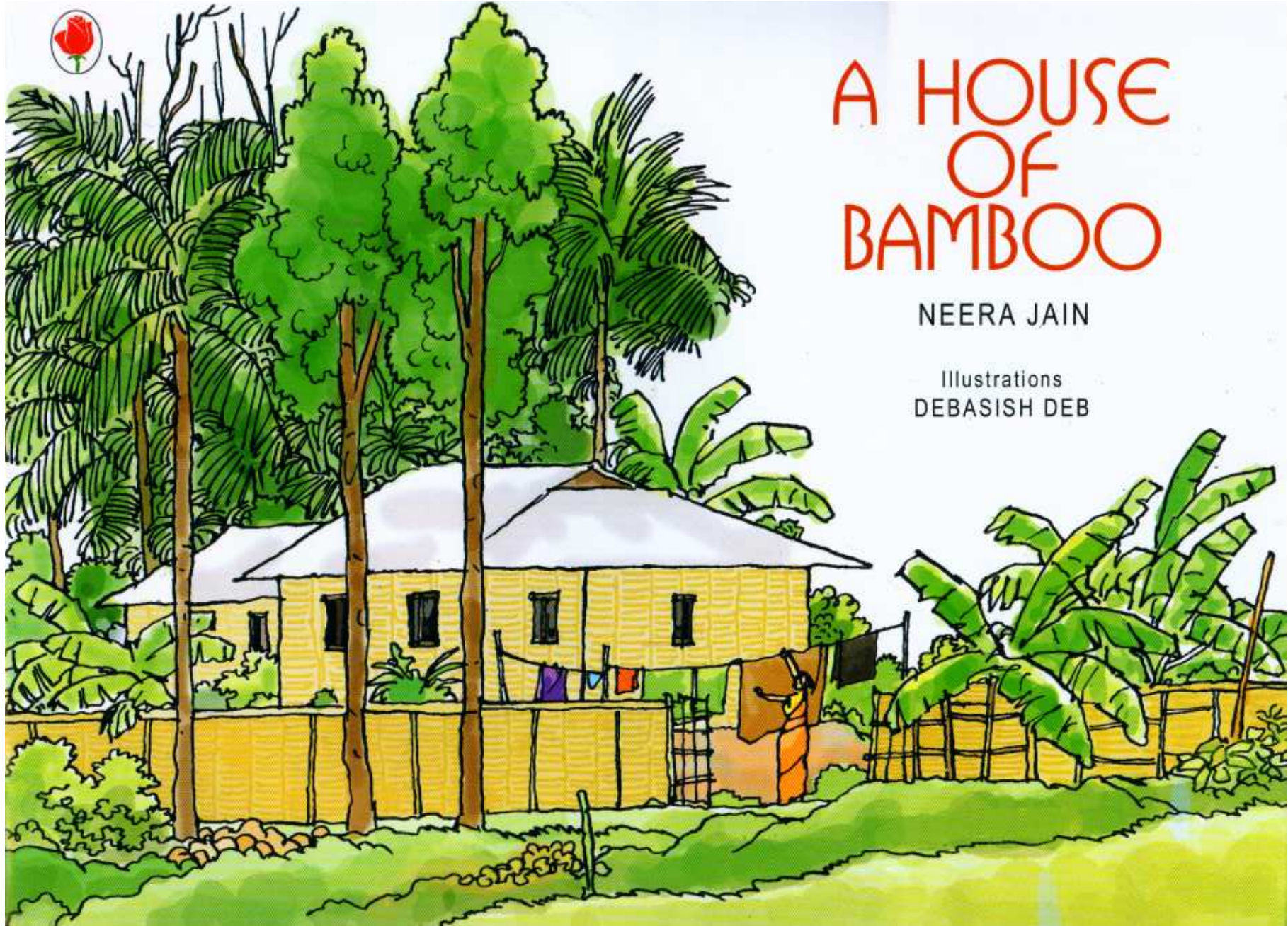




A HOUSE OF BAMBOO

NEERA JAIN

Illustrations
DEBASISH DEB



Nehru Bal Pustakalaya

A House of Bamboo

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NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA

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"Come on Rahul, pack up your things now," says Rahul's mother.



"No, Ma. I don't want to go. I want to stay here in Delhi. If I go, I will miss my friends, my hobby classes, travelling by metro...! My music teacher tells me so many tales, you know!"



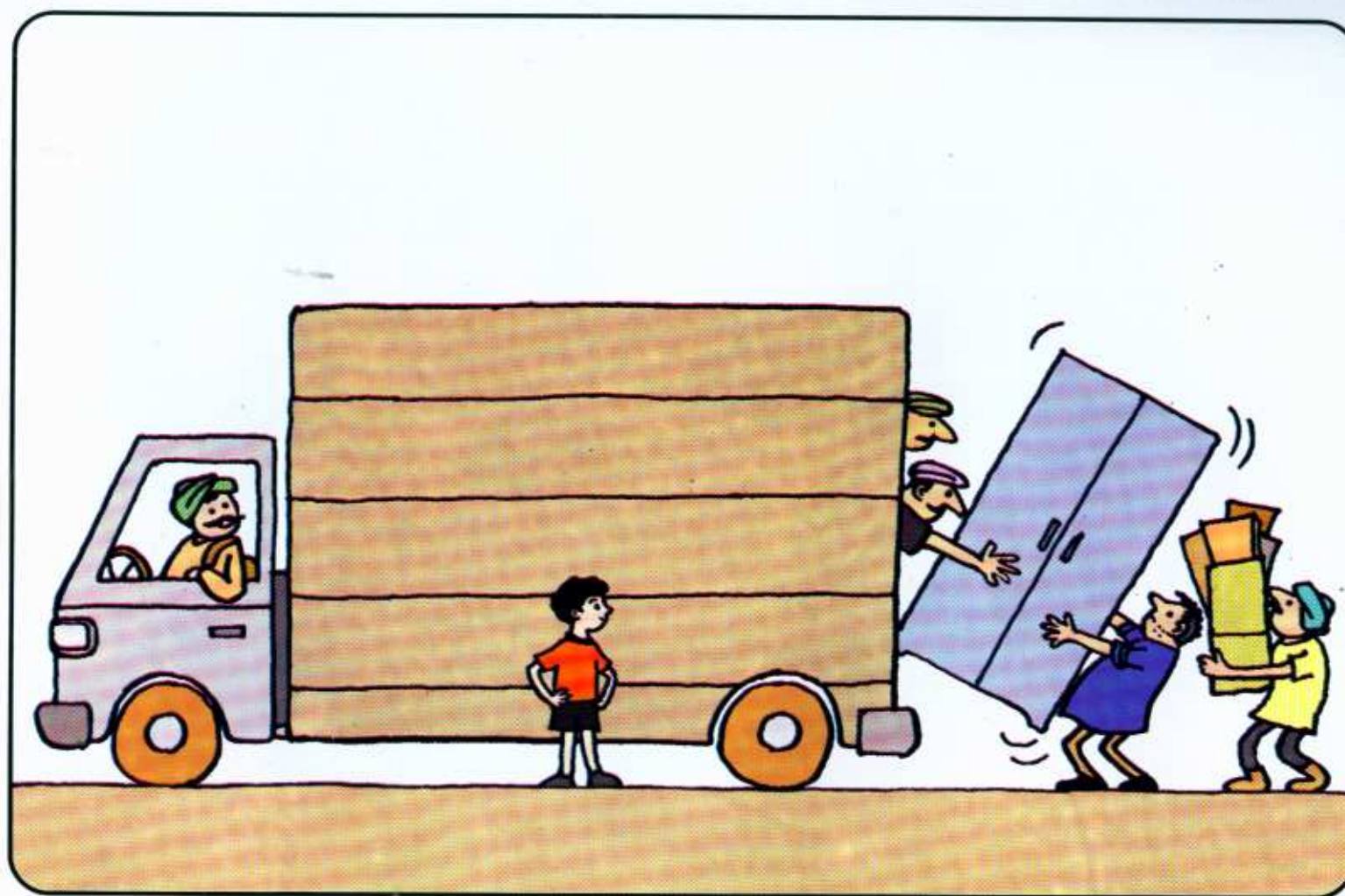
“But Rahul your father has been transferred. We must go to Agartala!” she states firmly.



Rahul becomes quiet. He recalls the places he visited with friends through his school trip — Rajghat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, Red Fort, Qutab Minar,



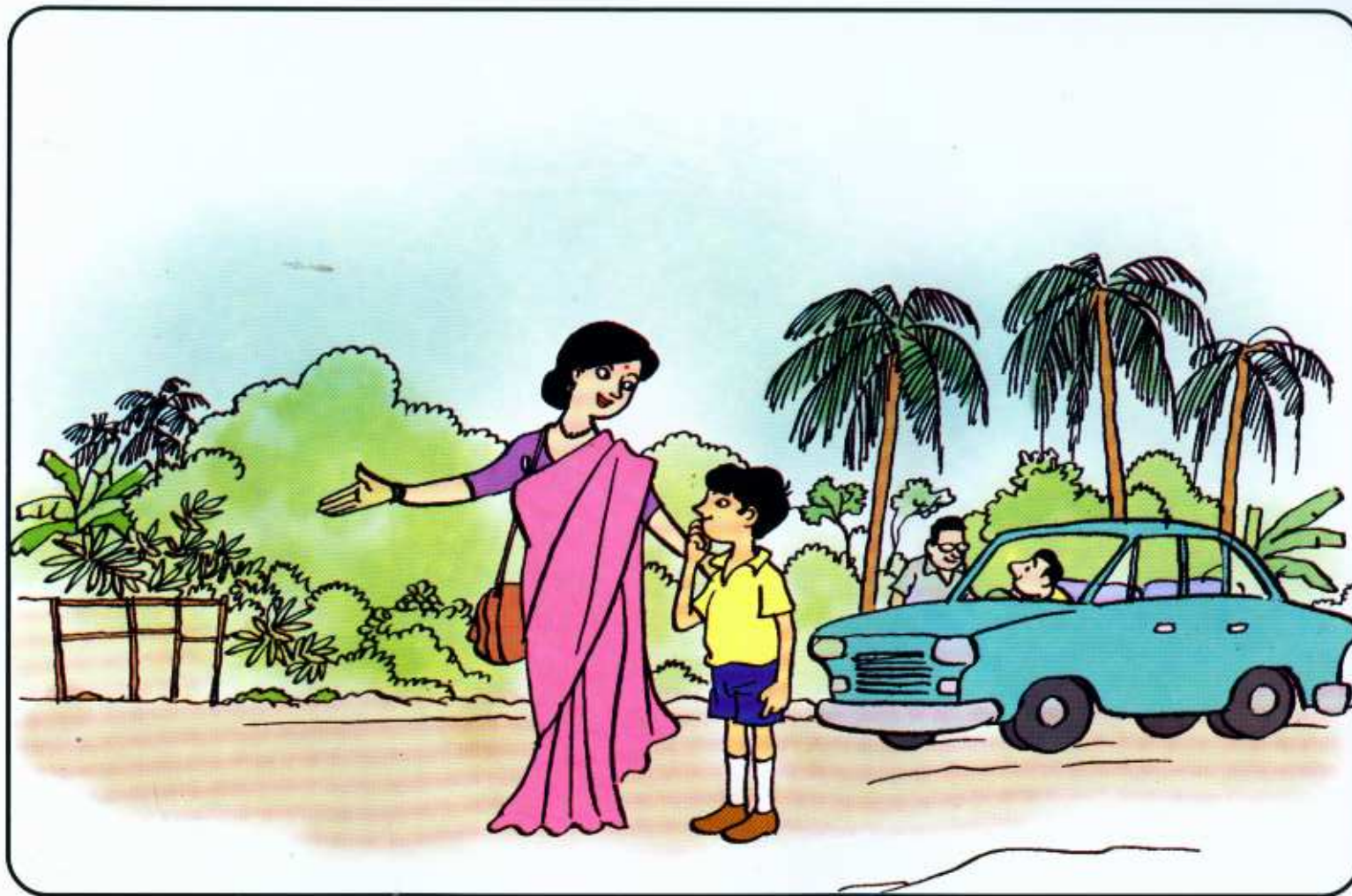
India Gate, and many more. He becomes thoughtful and starts thinking about his friends.



"The truck will be here tomorrow Rahul," announces Mom.



They catch the morning flight next day and reach Agartala in Tripura.



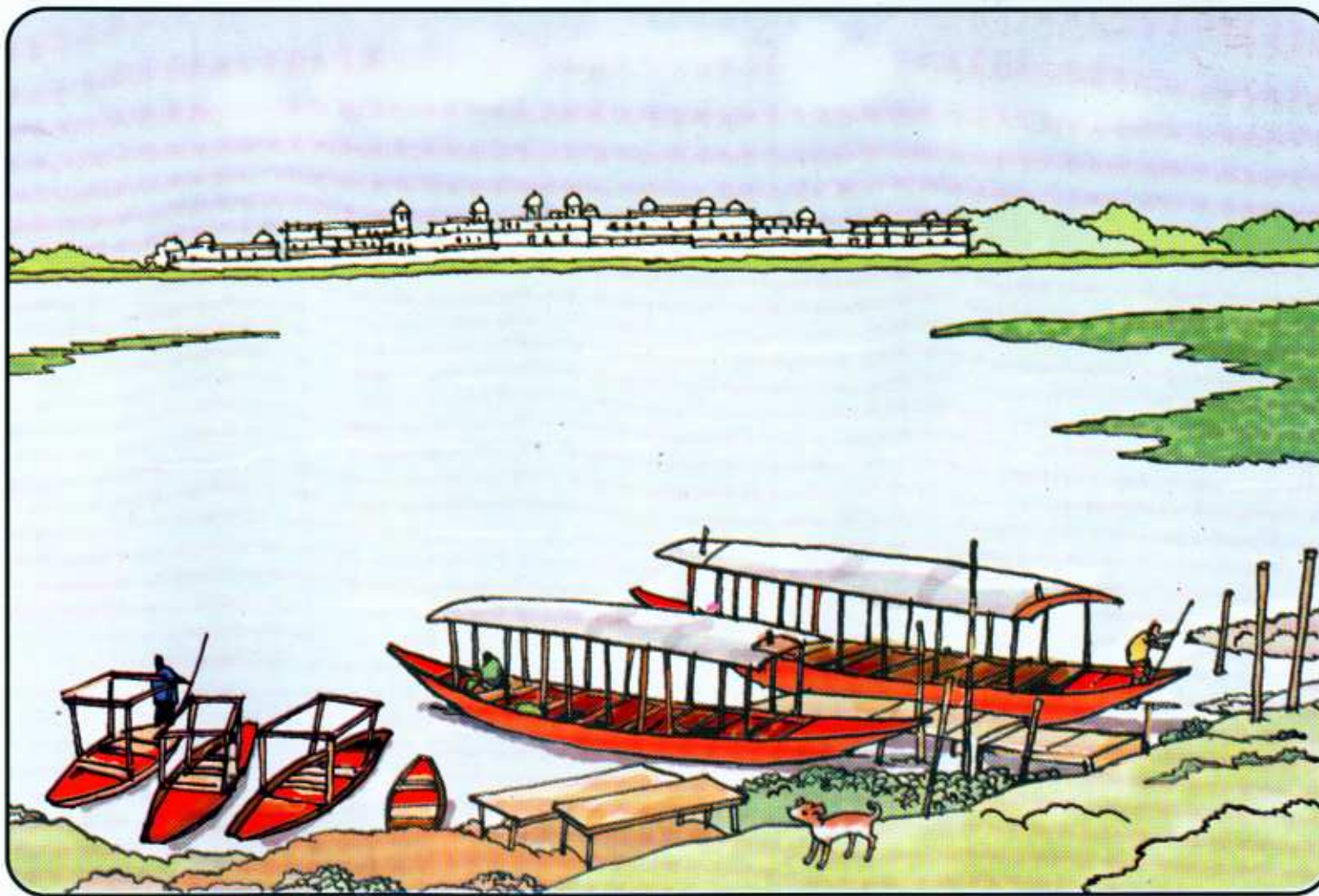
"Look Rahul, such beautiful landscape," exclaims Mom.



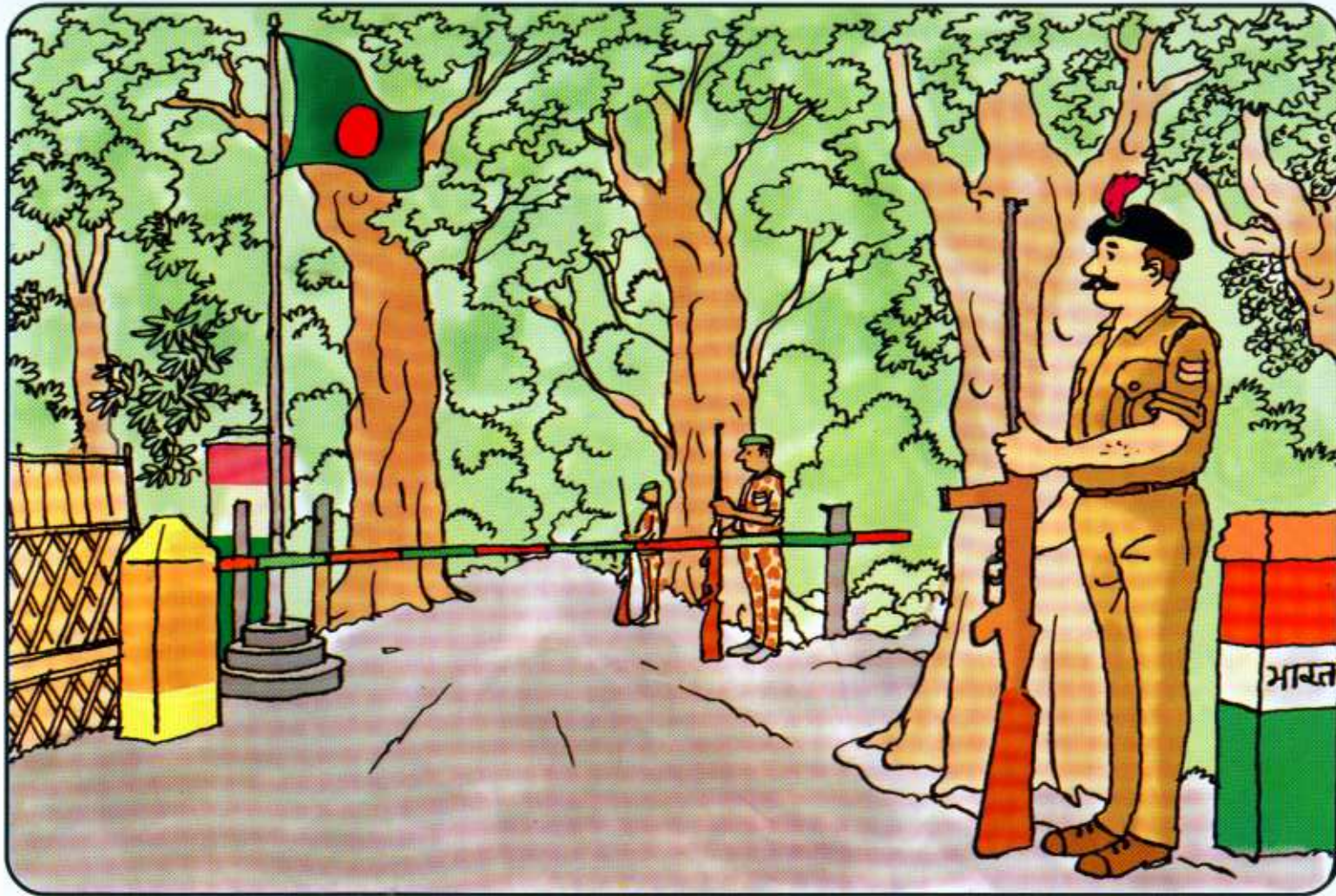
A dejected Rahul looks up. "A house of bamboo!" he utters in sheer delight.



"Look Ma, the animals here are a little different and I never got to see so many stars in Delhi. . . ." almost talking to himself late at night.



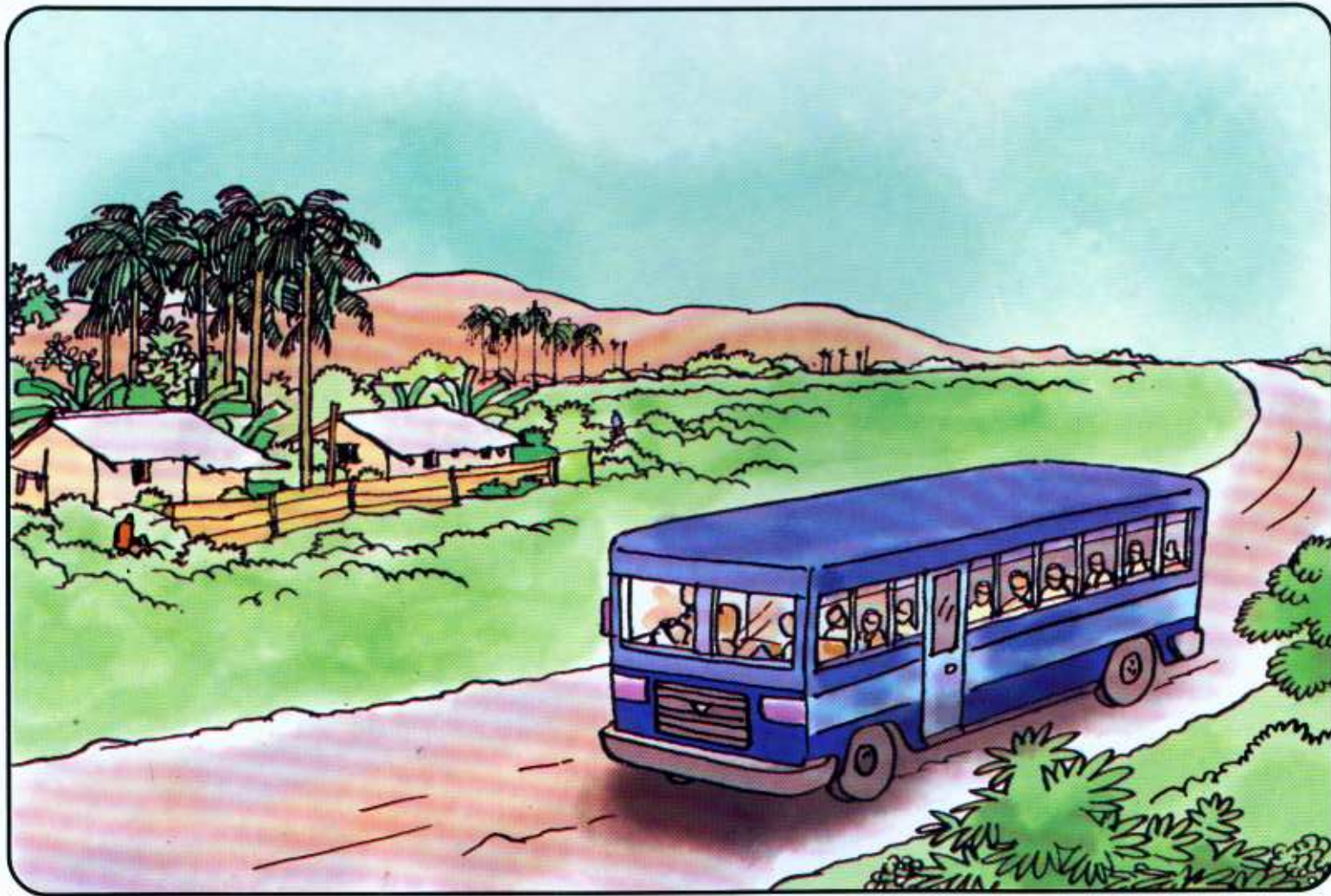
Rahul joins a school. He begins to like the place.
“Mom, today pack me some nice lunch. We are going for a trip of Agartala



from school. We shall visit the palace, the Neer Mahal, Udaipur temple and the India-Bangladesh border," Rahul seems happy.



Rahul tries to make friends with another boy in the bus. The boy looks sad. "Come on buddy! Let's see the India and Bangladesh border and no-man's-land. Come on," says Rahul.



"No! I have seen it a number of times!" he replies.
"Why, what happened?" enquires Rahul.
"My father has been transferred. . . ." he replies.



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